

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01
IO-14 SCS-06 CA-01 PPTE-00 OPR-02 PER-05 CAB-05
DOTE-00 FAA-00 L-03 NEAE-00 /077 W
-----099603 121547Z /72

P R 121406Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0751

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 01058

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: EL AL SHUTDOWN - EFFECT ON TRAVELERS IN CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF: A) JERUSALEM 01017 B) TEL AVIV 4754

1. TRAVEL CONDITIONS APPEAR TO BE DIFFERENT IN JERUSALEM THAN IN TEL AVIV, AS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ATTEMPTING TO BOOK AIR PASSAGE OUT OF ISRAEL THROUGH JERUSALEM OFFICES OF MAJOR AIRLINES ARE HAVING SEVERE DIFFICULTIES.

2. ON APRIL 12 JERUSALEM OFFICE OF TWA INFORMED CONGEN THAT THE EARLIEST AVAILABLE RESERVATION ON AN OUTGOING FLIGHT, WHETHER FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP, WAS ON APRIL 26. BRITISH AIRWAYS HAIFA OFFICE (CONGEN WAS UNABLE TO REACH BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFICES IN EITHER JERUSALEM OR TEL AVIV DUE TO CONTINUAL BUSY SIGNALS) TOLD CONGEN THAT EARLIEST AVAILABLE OUTGOING INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS FOR FLIGHTS TO LONDON WERE FOR APRIL 22. BA AGENT INFORMED CONOFF THAT THESE WERE THE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE AT THAT MOMENT AND THAT THE SITUATION COULD CHANGE IN A HALF HOUR'S TIME. AIR FRANCE JERUSALEM INFORMED CONGEN THAT ALL REGULAR FLIGHTS TO PARIS ARE BOOKED THROUGH THE END OF APRIL. HOWEVER, SPECIAL FLIGHTS ARE BEING ADDED AS POSSIBLE
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AND RESERVATIONS OCCASIONALLY ARE AVAILABLE ON THESE FLIGHTS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

3. CONGEN CONTINUES TO RECEIVE DAILY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION FROM STRANDED TRAVELERS. ONE GROUP OF TWENTY-FOUR AMCITS THAT ARRIVED ON EL AL ON SPECIAL AIRLINE COURTESY PASSES ARRANGED THROUGH WORLD-WIDE INTERLINE TOURS, OF ATLANTA,

HAS HAD PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO ARRANGE RETURN TO THE U.S., AS OTHER AIRLINES WILL NOT HONOR THEIR TICKETS. GROUP HAS INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY OF TRAVEL TO JORDAN TO DEPART FROM AMMAN, OF CHARTERING SMALL AIRPLANE TO CYPRUS OR GREECE, OR OF SAILING FROM HAIFA TO CYPRUS OR GREECE TO TRY TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION FROM THOSE POINTS. GROUP CONTACT IN U.S. HAS PURSUADED SWISSAIR TO HONOR GROUP'S RETURN TICKETS ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS, BUT, AS RESERVATIONS ARE HARD TO COME BY, IT IS UNKNOWN HOW LONG GROUP WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY CAN DEPART AREA. OTHER AMCITS STRANDED IN AREA BY STRIKE HAVE ARRANGED TRANSPORTATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES BY U.S. AIR FORCE MAC FLIGHTS, FERRIES TO CYPRUS, AND THE OCCASSIONAL AVAILABLE SEAT ON OTHER AIRLINES.

4. CONDITIONS IN JERUSALEM CONSULAR DISTRICT, COMPRISING CITY OF JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK, CONTINUE TO BE DIFFICULT FOR MANY TRAVELERS. TRAVELERS SHOULD BE ADVISED OF SITUATION BEFORE TRAVELING TO JERUSALEM, AND, AS POINTED OUT IN TEL AVIV'S MESSAGE (REF B), THEY SHOULD HAVE RETURN RESERVATION ON OTHER AIRLINE AND BE SURE THEY RECONFIRM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SCHEDULES, PASSENGERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0618
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780466/aaaacegd.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 1017, 78 TEL AVIV 4754
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2996779
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EL AL SHUTDOWN - EFFECT ON TRAVELERS IN CONSULAR DISTRICT
TAGS: CASC, EAIR, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d37d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014